



US Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

News Release

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Air Force to conduct test flight over Craney Island in preparation for mosquito season

In preparation for mosquito season, the Air Force has scheduled test flights over Craney Island on March 14-19, weather permitting. This will allow the pilots to conduct a calibration check before it is necessary to spray later in the year for mosquito control. The spraying during this period will occur in the late morning.

A specially equipped Air Force C-130 will spray the insecticide Dibrom over the Craney Island federal property. The calibration check will ensure proper spraying coordinates for upcoming applications.

Additionally, the Corps has a number of other initiatives geared towards preparing for mosquito season including: adult and larvae surveillance, larvicide and adulticide treatments, truck spraying and mosquito traps. Source reduction has considerably reduced mosquito breeding areas. Currently, dredged material is being pumped into all three cells at the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area (CIDMMA), which will also significantly cut down on mosquito breeding grounds.

The spraying is a joint effort sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Air Force and the city of Portsmouth as part of the ongoing effort to control the mosquito population.

Dibrom leaves no visible residue and is not normally harmful, except to bees. Area beekeepers should take precautions to protect their hives. Residents do not need to take any special precautions; pesticide applications will occur over federal property only.

For more information on the Corps' mosquito control, visit our website at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/mosquitoes/>

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